

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A print service for providing print of digital image data in response to an order from a user comprising:

a digital image data receiver that directly receives the digital image data from a source of the digital image data via a wired or wireless communication line;

a recorder that records a reception date of orders received from users and data identifying each user;

a receiver that receives a present print order from a user;

a checker that checks whether or not the reception date of the present print order is within a predetermined time period of a reception date of a previous order from the same user in a record recorded in the recorder; and

a charge determiner that determines a print charge of the present print order by deducting a predetermined amount regardless of a content of the previous order if the checker finds in the record the previous order from the same user within the predetermined time period.

2. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is less than one month.

3. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the checker includes a comparator that compares the user of the present print order with the data identifying the user recorded in the record.

4. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the checker includes a comparator that finds out a relationship between the data of the present print order and the reception data in the record in view of the predetermined time period.

5. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 4, wherein the comparator includes an adder that adds the predetermined time period to the reception date of the previous order recorded in the record for comparison with the reception date of the present print order.

6. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 4, wherein the comparator includes a subtractor that subtracts the predetermined time period from the reception date of the present order for comparison with the reception date of the previous order recorded in the record.

7. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 4, wherein the comparator includes a finder that finds a time period between the reception date of the present print order and the reception date of the previous order recorded in the record for comparison with the predetermined time period.

8. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the checker checks if the user used the same print service within the predetermined time period.

9. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the checker checks if the present print order is received through the same receiver as the previous order within the predetermined time period.

10. (Original) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the contents to be recorded by the recorder are attached to the digital image data.

11. (Original) The print service according to claim 1, wherein the contents to be recorded by the recorder are embedded in the digital image data.

12. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of predetermined time periods are prepared in the checker.

13. (Previously Presented) The print service according to claim 12, wherein the charge determiner deducts a different predetermined amount for each of the plurality of predetermined time periods.

14. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A laboratory system that produces a print of digital image data in response to an order from a user, the laboratory system comprising:

a digital image data receiver that directly receives the digital image data from a source of the digital image data via a wired or wireless communication line;

a recorder that records data identifying the user;

a receiver that receives a present print order from the user;

a checker that checks whether or not the user has previously ordered a print with the same laboratory system regardless of a content of the present print order and based on a record recorded by the recorder;

a determiner that determines a print charge for the present print order based on an outcome of the check performed by the checker; and

a reporter that reports the outcome of the determiner to a service front that delivers the print to the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The laboratory system according to claim 20, wherein the determiner determines the print charge by deducting a predetermined amount if it is confirmed by the checker that the user previously used the same laboratory system.

22. (Previously Presented) The laboratory system according to claim 20, wherein the service front is separate from the laboratory system.

23. (Previously Presented) The laboratory system according to claim 20, wherein the checker checks if the data identifying the user of the present print order has been recorded previously by the recorder.

24. (Previously Presented) The laboratory system according to claim 20, further comprising a second recorder that records the service front receiving the present print order, wherein the reporter reports the service front recorded in the second recorder.

25. (Previously Presented) The laboratory system according to claim 20, further comprising a second recorder that records the service front in charge of the delivery of the prints to the user, wherein the reporter reports the service front recorded in the second recorder.

26. (Original) The laboratory system according to claim 20, wherein the contents to be recorded by the recorder are attached to the digital image data.

27. (Original) The laboratory system according to claim 20, wherein the contents to be recorded by the recorder are embedded in the digital image data.

28. (Currently Amended) A print service front that ~~handles a plurality of print services for delivering~~ utilizes a given laboratory system selected from a plurality of laboratory systems providing a print of digital image data ~~to a user~~ in response to an order from ~~the~~ a user, the print service front comprising:

a first recorder that records data identifying the user;

a second recorder that records ~~an identity of a~~ a name of the given laboratory system ~~specified by the user~~;

a receiver that receives a present print order from the user;

a checker that checks whether or not the user has previously ordered prints with the same print service front according to the record recorded by the first recorder, and regardless of a content of the digital image data; and

a charge determiner that determines the print charge of the present print order based on an outcome of the check performed by the checker and regardless of the record recorded in the second recorder.

29. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, further comprising a requester that requests printing of the present print order by the given laboratory system based on a record recorded by the second recorder.

30. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, further comprising a second receiver that receives a report of a printing charge determined by the given laboratory system, and a charging system that charges the user the total amount of the given laboratory system printing charge and the print charge determined by the charge determiner.

31. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the print service front acts as a reception site that receives an order for printing images from the user.

32. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the print service front acts as a delivery site that delivers the output print to the user.

33. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the charge determiner determines a lower charge if the checker confirms that a previous order from the same user was received within a predetermined time period prior to the present print order.

34. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 33, wherein the predetermined time period is less than one month.

35. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the checker checks if the data identifying the user of the present print order has been recorded previously by the first recorder.

36. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the contents to be recorded by the first and second recorders are attached to the digital image data.

37. (Currently Amended) The print service front according to claim 28, wherein the contents to be recorded by the first and second recorders are embedded in the digital image data.

38. (New) A print service for providing print of digital image data in response to an order from a user comprising:

a digital image data receiver that directly receives the digital image data from a source of the digital image data via a wired or wireless communication line;

a recorder that records a reception date of orders received from users and data identifying each user;

a receiver that receives a present print order from a user; and

a charge determiner that determines a print charge of the present print order by deducting a predetermined amount regardless of a content of the previous order if it is determined, based upon a record recorded in the recorder, that the reception date of the present print order is within a predetermined time period of a reception date of a previous order from the same user.

39. (New) A laboratory system that produces a print of digital image data in response to an order from a user, the laboratory system comprising:

a digital image data receiver that directly receives the digital image data from a source of the digital image data via a wired or wireless communication line;

a recorder that records data identifying the user;

a receiver that receives a present print order from the user;

a determiner that determines a print charge for the present print order based on a determination as to whether or not the user has previously ordered a print with the same laboratory system regardless of a content of the present print order and based on a record recorded by the recorder; and

a reporter that reports the outcome of the determiner to a service front that delivers the print to the user.

40. (New) A print service front that utilizes a given laboratory system selected from a plurality of laboratory systems providing a print of digital image data in response to an order from a user, the print service front comprising:

a first recorder that records data identifying the user;

a second recorder that records a name of the given laboratory system;

a receiver that receives a present print order from the user; and

a charge determiner that determines the print charge of the present print order based on a determination as to whether or not the user has previously ordered prints with the same print service front according to the record recorded by the first recorder, regardless of a content of the digital image data, and regardless of the record recorded in the second recorder.